

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175574

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ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY:AF/W:JMSEGARS

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R 250204Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN 8035

UNCLAS STATE 175574

FOL USUN 3417 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUL 23; REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 3417

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN SL

SUBJ: SIERRA LEONE DISASTER RELIEF

1. THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION TO THE SYG, DATED JULY 9,
1975 WAS TRANSMITTED TO PERMANENT MISSIONS OF STATES MEMBERS
OF UN BY THE UN SECRETARIAT ON JULY 14, 1975 AT THE REQUEST OF
PERMREP OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UN:

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"I HAVE THE HONOUR, ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY
GOVERNMENT, TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT ON SATURDAY,
JUNE 21, 1975, A SEVERE HURRICANE OCCURRED WHICH CAUSED
EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN
SIERRA LEONE. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DAMAGE HAS CAUSED HIS
EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE THE HURRICANE A
"NATIONAL DISASTER".

"IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, A TOTAL OF
OVER 2,000 HOUSES WERE EITHER COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED OR
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PAGE 02 STATE 175574

PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY THE HURRICANE. INFORMATION OBTAINED

FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INDICATE THAT THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED IS ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY LE3 MILLION (THREE MILLION LEONES). THIS INCLUDES DAMAGE TO PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS. THIS ESTIMATE IS REGARDED AS CONSERVATIVE AND MIGHT COST MORE BY THE TIME COMPLETE RESTORATION IS ACHIEVED.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE IS HEREBY APPEALING TO ALL FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO DONATE WHATEVER FINANCIAL AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE THEY CAN, TO ASSIST SIERRA LEONE IN HER RESTORATION ACTIVITIES SO THAT THE AFFECTED VICTIMS WILL SOON BE REHABILITATED.

"A SPECIAL EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO LOOK INTO ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE APPEAL FUND. THE EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE, IN ORDER TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS EFFICIENTLY, HAS OPENED AN ACCOUNT AT THE SIERRA LEONE COMMERCIAL BANK, FREETOWN, WHERE ALL VOLUNTARY DONATIONS SHOULD BE MADE.

"I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS NOTE COULD BE CIRCULATED AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT TO ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

"ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED)

"EDWARD W. BLYDEN III
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND
PLENIPOTENTIARY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS"
MOYNIHAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE175574
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:JMSEGARS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750256-0873
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750721/aaaaaskh.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 OCT 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIERRA LEONE DISASTER RELIEF
TAGS: AFIN, SL
To: FREETOWN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006